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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on its work during 1999**

Rapporteur: Mr. Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chapters I and II

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* A/54/150.

** The present document contains chapters I and II of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. Chapters III–XII of the report will be issued separately in document A/54/23 (Part II). Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly will be issued separately in document A/54/23 (Part III). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23).

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8 September 1999

Letter of transmittal

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 1999.

(Signed) Peter D. **Donigi**
Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

His Excellency Mr. Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I
Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, *mutatis mutandis*, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, *inter alia*, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:
>
> "(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;
>
> "(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> "(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.
>
> "23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
>
> "24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system,

the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fifty-third session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly, on 3 December 1998, adopted resolution 53/68 in which, *inter alia*, it:

"5. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1998, including the programme of work envisaged for 1999;[4]

"...

"11. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

"(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(d) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"12. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"13. *Also calls upon* the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1999 session;".

9. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted 10 other resolutions, 1 consensus and 3 decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensus and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution No.*	*Date of adoption*
Western Sahara	53/64	3 December 1998
New Caledonia	53/65	3 December 1998
Tokelau	53/66	3 December 1998
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	53/67 A and B	3 December 1998

Decisions

Territory	*Decision No.*	*Date of adoption*
East Timor	53/402	15 September 1998
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	53/414	2 November 1998
Gibraltar	53/420	3 December 1998

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	*Resolution No.*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	53/60	3 December 1998
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	53/61	3 December 1998
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	53/62	3 December 1998
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	53/63	3 December 1998
Dissemination of information on decolonization	53/69	3 December 1998

3. Decision concerning other questions

Question	*Decision No.*	*Date of adoption*
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	53/419	3 December 1998

10. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of East Timor" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session (see decision 53/402).

11. At its 50th plenary meeting, on 2 November 1998, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session (decision 53/414).

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/1999/L.1).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

13. As of 1 January 1999, the Special Committee was composed of the following 24 members:

Antigua and Barbuda	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Bolivia	Iraq
Chile	Mali
China	Papua New Guinea
Congo	Russian Federation
Côte d'Ivoire	Saint Lucia
Cuba	Sierra Leone
Ethiopia	Syrian Arab Republic
Fiji	Tunisia
Grenada	United Republic of Tanzania
India	Venezuela
Indonesia	Yugoslavia

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 1999 appears in document A/AC.109/1999/INF/37.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 1999 and election of officers

14. The Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.1).

15. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:
Peter D. Donigi (Papua New Guinea)

Vice-Chairmen:
Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Moctar Ouane (Mali)

Rapporteur:
Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

16. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special

Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. The Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/1999/L.2).

17. Statements relating to the organization of work were made at the 1st meeting by the Chairman and by the representatives of Indonesia, New Zealand, Fiji, Chile and the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.1).

18. At the same meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Argentina had expressed the wish to participate in the opening meeting of the Committee. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

19. At the 3rd meeting, on 21 June 1999, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of Gibraltar. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

20. At the 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina and Uruguay had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

21. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary body were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

22. The Special Committee held 16 meetings at Headquarters during 1999, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 22 February and 2nd meeting, 31 March;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd to 15th meetings, 21 June to 21 July; 16th meeting, 28 July.

23. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meetings*	*Decision*
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	3rd, 13th	A/54/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 17
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd, 10th	A/54/23 (Part III), sect. A
Special Committee decision of 11 August 1998 concerning Puerto Rico	11th, 12th	A/54/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 38
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	8th, 9th, 14th, 15th	A/54/23 (Part III), sect. F
Tokelau	9th	A/54/23 (Part III), sect. E
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	11th	A/54/23 (Part III), sect. B
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	11th	A/54/23 (Part III), sect. H
Gibraltar	3rd	A/54/23 (Part II), para. 72
East Timor	4th, 5th	A/54/23 (Part II), para. 65
New Caledonia	8th, 13th	A/54/23 (Part III), sect. D
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	10th	A/54/23 (Part II), para. 124
Western Sahara	4th	A/54/23 (Part II), para. 85
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	14th, 15th	A/53/23 (Part III), sect. C

2. Subsidiary bodies

Bureau

24. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided to maintain the Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee.

25. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held 15 meetings.

26. At the 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, following the statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee adopted the draft report of the Special Committee contained in aide-mémoire 10/99/Rev.1 dated 8 July 1999 (subsequently issued as A/AC.109/1999/L.12), without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

27. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session,[5] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 1999, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee further recalled that, by paragraph 5 of its resolution 53/68, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 1999.

28. At its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-fourth session (see A/AC.109/1999/L.12).

Special Committee decision of 11 August 1998 concerning Puerto Rico[6]

29. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 11 August 1998 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it in plenary meetings.

30. At its 11th and 12th meetings, on 6 July 1999, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. At the same meetings, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and, at the 11th and 12th meetings, heard the representatives of the organizations concerned (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.11 and 12), as indicated below:

11th meeting

The Honourable Pedro Rosselló, Governor of Puerto Rico; Lcdo. Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Reverend Eunice Santana, on behalf of Commission of the Churches on International Affairs; Mr. Jorge Farinacci Garcia, Frente Socialista; Mr. Juan Mari Brás, on behalf of Causa Común Independentista-Proyecto Educativo Puertorriqueño; Mr. Fernando Martín, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Mr. Ismael Guadalupe, on behalf of Comité Pro Rescate y Desarrollo de Vieques; Mr. Wilfredo Santiago-Valiente, Statehooders Organization of New York, Inc.; Mrs. Wilma Reveron Collazo, on behalf of Congreso Nacional Hostosiano; Ms. Nilda Luz Rexach, National Advancement for Puerto Rican Culture; and Mrs. Marisol Corretjer, on behalf of Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico.

12th meeting

Mr. José I. Adames, Al Frente; Mr. Salvador Vargas, Jr., Concerned Puerto Rican Americans (CPRA); Mr. José J. Rivera, Estadidad 2000; Mrs. Lolita Lebrón, on behalf of Puerto Rico, Mi Patria; Ms. Vanessa Ramos, Asociación Americana de Juristas; Ms. Olga V. Pabon Cintron, Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico; Mr. Julio A. Muriente Pérez, Nuevo Movimiento Independentista Puertorriqueño; Mr. J. M. Rivera-Arvelo, U.S. Statehood, Inc.; Mr. Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers Party; and Mrs. Zoé Lugo-Mendoza, on behalf of the Vieques Support Campaign.

31. At the 11th and 12th meetings, on 6 July 1999, the representatives of Fiji, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Iraq, as well as the Chairman, posed questions to some of the petitioners. The representative of Cuba made statements on a point of order at the 11th and 12th meetings. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire made statement on a point of order at the 12th meeting.

32. At the 12th meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.6, and, in the course of his statement, made an oral revision to the draft

by removing a semicolon at the end of the operative paragraph 4 and adding the words "and to return occupied territories to the people of Puerto Rico".

33. At the same meeting, the representative of Bolivia made a further oral amendment to the revision introduced by the representative of Cuba proposing to replace the word "territories" by the word "land".

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, the United Republic of Tanzania, Bolivia and Sierra Leone, as well as by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.11).

35. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.6, as orally amended, by a roll-call vote of 12 in favour to none against, with 5 abstentions (see para. 38). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bolivia, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Fiji, Grenada, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Chile, India, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Venezuela.

36. At the same meeting, the representative of Venezuela made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.11).

37. At the same meeting, the Acting Chairman made a further statement (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.11).

38. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1999/28) adopted by the Special Committee at its 11th meeting, on 9 July 1999, appears below:

"*The Special Committee,*

"*Bearing in mind* the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

"*Considering* that the decade of the 1990s was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, as the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the seventeen resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico, contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly,

"*Recalling* that 25 July 1999 marks the one hundred and first anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

"*Recalling* the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in the past ten years, which have not expedited the process of decolonization of the people of Puerto Rico,

"*Aware* that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, has been used for over fifty years by the United States Marines to carry out military manoeuvres, thus limiting access by the civilian population to a space scarcely a quarter of the island, and having an impact on the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of the Territory,

"*Noting* the consensus among the Puerto Rican people on the urgency to halt military manoeuvres on Vieques Island and on the return of occupied land to the people of Puerto Rico,

"*Also noting* the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of Puerto Rican prisoners who, for more than fifteen years, have been serving sentences in United States prisons on cases related to the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence,

"*Having heard* statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

"*Having considered* the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,[7]

"1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

"2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own and unequivocal national identity;

"3. *Reaffirms its hope*, and that of the international community, that the Government of the United States of America will assume its responsibility of expediting a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right

to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico;

"4. *Encourages* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee to the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to order the halt of its armed forces' military drills and manoeuvres on Vieques Island and to return the occupied land to the people of Puerto Rico;

"5. *Expresses its hope* that the President of the United States will consider favourably the request before him to release the Puerto Rican prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons on cases related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico;

"6. *Notes with satisfaction* the report prepared by the Rapporteur,[7] in compliance with its resolution of 11 August 1998;[8]

"7. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report to the Special Committee in the year 2000 on the implementation of the present resolution;

"8. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review."

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

39. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda an item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it in its plenary meetings.

40. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998, by paragraph 11 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

41. During the year, the Special Committee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see A/54/23 (Part II), chaps. X–XII).

42. At its 8th meeting, on 28 June 1999, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, the Special Committee heard a statement by Carlyle Corbin, Representative for External Affairs of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, on matters relating to small Territories (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.8).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

43. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

44. The Special Committee took that decision into account in its consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

45. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

46. Having regard to its programme of work for 2000, the Special Committee, at its 14th meeting, on 9 July 1999, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2000 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure (see A/AC.109/1999/L.12).

4. Pattern of conferences

47. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Pattern of conferences". In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

48. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-mémoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 1999 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

49. At its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 53/208 of 18 December 1998. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee strived to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. However, in view of the need to conduct a critical review of the Committee's work and the need to consider the programme of its future activities in the last year of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2000, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February/March	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings (6–8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

February/July	20 meetings

It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2000, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate, to keep its meetings to a minimum (see A/AC.109/1999/L.12).

5. Control and limitation of documentation

50. At its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation and noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 53/208 B of 18 December 1998. The Special Committee noted that, by its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly had approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records (see A/AC.109/1999/L.12).

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

51. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of New Zealand and Portugal, as representatives of the administering Powers concerned, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see A/54/23 (Part II), chaps. IX and XI).

52. The delegation of France participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the question of New Caledonia (see A/54/23 (Part II), chap. IX).

53. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee.[9] However, during informal consultations with the Special Committee held in June and July 1999, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee (see sections I and J of the present chapter).

54. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/1999/L.8, on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution (A/AC.109/1999/29), the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau

in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see A/54/23 (Part II), para. 17).

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

55. At its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (see A/AC.109/L.1791, annex). In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate (see A/AC.109/1999/L.12).

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

56. Information on the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights is contained in A/54/23 (Part I), chapter II, annex, paragraphs 15 and 17 and A/54/23 (Part II), paragraph 8.

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

57. At its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 22 February 1998, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee also decided that the Chairman would also have consultations with those members of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. In addition, the Special Committee decided that it should establish criteria for the participation of members of the Committee in the Committee's delegation to the regional seminars, based on the principle of rotation. It also decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2000 (see A/AC.109/1999/L.12).

10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

58. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/1999/L.2) and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 1998 session[10] in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

59. At its 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999, with reference to its decision taken at the 3rd meeting on 21 June 1999, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, authorized the Rapporteur to reformulate the Committee's draft resolutions and decisions into the format of the General Assembly as well as to reorganize and simplify the format of the report of the Committee and to submit directly to the Assembly various chapters of the report in accordance with established practice and procedure.

11. Other questions

60. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/1999/L.1, para. 10). That decision was taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

61. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 53/62 relating to the item, consultations were held between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Special Committee participated in the Council's consideration of the related item. An account of the foregoing and of the Special Committee's consideration of the item is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/54/23 (Part II)).

2. Commission on Human Rights

62. During the year, the Special Committee followed closely the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

63. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions on the question of Western Sahara (1999/4), the question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights (1999/25), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1999/45), the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 (1999/50), the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1999/51), and the right to development (1999/79); and resolution 1999/81 on the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the report of the subcommission.[11] The Special Committee further took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 53/126, 52/129, 53/134, 53/149 and 53/155 of 9 December 1998.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

64. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 72 and 73 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

65. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/54/23 (Part II)).

66. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see A/54/23 (Part III)).

5. Organization of African Unity

67. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of OAU.

6. Caribbean Community

68. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of CARICOM.

7. South Pacific Forum

69. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the South Pacific Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

70. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries regarding the issue of decolonization.

9. Non-governmental organizations

71. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 53/68 and 53/69 of 3 December 1998, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Special Committee during the period under review is covered in detail in the Special Committee documents (see A/AC.109/1999/19) and the present report (see part I, para. 30; chapter II, annex; part II, paras. 62, 70 and 116). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in part III of the present report.

H. Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

72. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 1999 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

73. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

74. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including in particular General Assembly resolution 53/132 of 9 December 1998 and the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/53/305).

I. Review of work

75. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, continued to be actively pursued in 1999. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, the Special Committee held extensive informal consultations with the administering Powers concerned and other States as well as with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (A/AC.109/1999/22 and A/AC.109/1999/ 31; see part III, sections E and F of the present report).

76. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/1999/29), information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/1999/25), economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/1999/26) and implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/1999/31), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/1999/27).

77. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a regional seminar at Castries, St. Lucia, in May 1999 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991.

78. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

79. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/1999/24) which it recommends to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-fourth session (see A/54/23 (Part III)).

80. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 11 August 1998 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter (A/AC.109/1999/28), which is set out in paragraph 38 of the present chapter.

81. During the period under review, the Special Committee initiated a critical review of its work and programme of future work by holding a number of informal meetings. The range of issues covered by the Committee's critical review is reflected in the documents on the organization of work issued by the Special Committee during its 1999 session (A/AC.109/1999/L.2 and Add.1), as well as in the working papers prepared by the delegations of Chile (A/AC.109/1999/20) and St. Lucia (A/AC.109/1999/21). In addition, the Special Committee initiated informal consultations with the administering Powers with a view to improving cooperation between the Committee and the administering Powers (see section J).

82. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

J. Future work

83. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2000 to pursue its efforts in bringing to a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which is contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

84. Given the significance of the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will endeavour to conclude the critical review of its work, making an assessment of the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can effect improvements.

85. In order to facilitate the consultations, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee in 1998, the current Chairman and some delegations have submitted informal papers on the conceptual framework, objectives and activities of the Committee, without prejudice to the position of any delegation (see A/AC.109/L.1886, annex, A/AC.109/1999/L.2/Add.1, A/AC.109/1999/20 and A/AC.109/1999/21). In 1999, the Chairman and the Bureau initiated informal contacts with the administering Powers as requested by the Special Committee in order to explore means to improve cooperation. This paved the way for the Special Committee to hold a number of informal meetings with the administering Powers for a preliminary exchange of views in an effort to discuss its future work and to develop a process towards the formal involvement of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee.

86. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep under continuous review any developments concerning each Territory. It will also review the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. In that connection, the Special Committee intends to improve and strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers.

87. The Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

88. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181. The activities to be undertaken in that connection include a seminar in the Pacific region to be organized by the Special Committee in 2000, to be attended by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

89. The Special Committee will continue to seek the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in that regard will seek the implementation of General Assembly resolutions calling upon the administering Powers to cooperate or to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to

the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the people concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers.

90. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee is aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of individuals with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. The Special Committee believes that issues facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as environmental problems; the impact of hurricanes, volcanoes and other natural disasters, beach and coastal erosion and drought; finding ways and means to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of their peoples, should remain the focus of its attention. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990 (see A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030, A/AC.109/2058, A/AC.109/2089, A/AC.109/2121 and A/54/23 (Part I, chap. II, annex)).

91. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the actions taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. It will also be guided by the results of consultations held in 1999 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. Further, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the secretaries-general and senior officials of regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

92. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. Such participation would constitute an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories, enabling them to enhance their standard of living and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

93. The Special Committee intends to take into account the agreement reached with the European Union on the resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/1999/26) and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected. The Special Committee will continue its study of military activities and arrangements in the Territories and will also cooperate with interested States in that regard.

94. Taking into consideration its mandate on Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

95. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Special Committee within existing resources.

96. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2000, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2000, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

97. The Special Committee has consistently reiterated the importance of disseminating information on decolonization as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the people of the Territories in bringing about the speedy and unconditional end of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

98. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-fourth session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2000. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly request all the administering Powers to become involved with the work of the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Furthermore, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

99. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2000. In that regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 2000–2001 based on the level of activities approved for 1999, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 1999 session

100. At its 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

101. At the 16th meeting, on 28 July 1999, the Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 1999 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.16).

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

[2] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-third sessions. For

the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23); and ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23).

[4] Ibid., chap. I, sect. J.

[5] Ibid., chap. I, para. 89.

[6] Ibid., chap. I, para. 41.

[7] A/AC.109/1999/L.13.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23), para. 41.

[9] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23), chap. I, paras. 60 and 61.

[11] E/CN.4/1999/4–E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/45 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/16.

Annex

List of documents of the Special Committee, 1999

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/1999/INF/37	List of delegations	11 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/1	Pitcairn (working paper)	1 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/2	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Castries, Saint Lucia, from 25 to 27 May 1999: guidelines and rules of procedure	23 March 1999
A/AC.109/1999/3	Bermuda (working paper)	4 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/4	Cayman Islands (working paper)	1 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/5	Gibraltar (working paper)	1 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/6	New Caledonia (working paper)	3 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/7 and Corr.1	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	1 June 1999 21 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/8	Anguilla (working paper)	4 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/9	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	4 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/10 and Corr.1	East Timor (working paper)	15 June 1999 28 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/11	Western Sahara (working paper)	2 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/12	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	16 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/13	American Samoa (working paper)	4 May 1999
A/AC.109/1999/14	Guam (working paper)	14 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/15	Montserrat (working paper)	4 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/16	Saint Helena (working paper)	16 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/17	Tokelau (working paper)	19 May 1999
A/AC.109/1999/18	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	4 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/19	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from July 1998 to May 1999: report of the Department of Public Information	9 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/20	Conceptual framework for the review of the constitutional and juridical status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on progress in the implementation of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: Working paper submitted by Chile	10 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/21	Comments on the conceptual framework for the review of the constitutional and juridical status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on progress in the implementation of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: Working paper submitted by Saint Lucia	15 June 1999

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/1999/22	Question of Tokelau: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting, on 29 June 1999	29 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/23	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999	1 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/24	Dissemination of information on decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999	1 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/25	Information on Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 1 July 1999	1 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/26	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 11th meeting, on 6 July 1999	6 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/27	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 11th meeting, on 6 July 1999	6 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/28	Special Committee decision of 11 August 1998 concerning Puerto Rico: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 12th meeting, on 6 July 1999	7 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/29	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999	12 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/30	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999	12 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/31	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999	21 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/32	Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999	22 July 1999

Documents issued in the limited series

A/AC.109/1999/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: Note by the Secretary-General	12 February 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.2 and Add.1	Organization of work: Note by the Chairman	12 February 1999 31 March 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.3	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	16 June 1999

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/1999/L.4	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	16 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.5	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by [Bolivia, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela]	25 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.6	Special Committee decision of 11 August 1998 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Cuba	25 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.7	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	28 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.8	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	29 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.9	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	29 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.10	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Chairman	29 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.11/Rev.2	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: revised draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	12 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.12	Report of the Special Committee	9 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.13	Special Committee decision of 11 August 1998 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	28 June 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.14	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	7 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.15/Rev.1	Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	16 July 1999
A/AC.109/1999/L.16	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: report of the Chairman	5 August 1999

Chapter II
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

1. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

2. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the organization of work of the Special Committee for the year (A/AC.109/1999/L.2), decided to allocate to plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

3. The Special Committee took up the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" and the Caribbean Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 1st meeting, on 22 February 1999.

4. On 23 March 1999, the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/1999/2) were issued.

5. At the 13th meeting, on 9 July 1999, the Special Committee continued consideration of the question of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Noting that the Plan of Action for the Decade provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Special Committee decided to organize in 2000 a seminar in the Pacific region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (see A/AC.109/1999/L.12).

6. At the 14th meeting, on 12 July 1999, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, which had been circulated among the members of the Committee as a conference room paper (A/AC.109/1999/CRP.2).

7. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Caribbean Regional Seminar introduced the draft report of the Seminar, which contained a detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Seminar, held at Castries, Saint Lucia, from 25 to 27 May 1999 (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

8. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the 13th meeting, a statement was made by Carlyle Corbin on behalf of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

9. At the same meeting, following the statement made by the representative of Saint Lucia, the Chairman read out to the Committee the position of some delegations on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, India, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.14).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee decided, on the proposal of the Chairman, to authorize its Rapporteur to hold informal consultations with interested delegations to discuss further the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar.

12. At the 15th meeting, on 21 July 1999, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee made a statement in the course of which he reported on the outcome of informal consultations with interested delegations and introduced amendments to the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/1999/SR.15).

13. At the same meeting, the representative of India made a further amendment to the draft report (A/AC.109/1999/SR.15).

14. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to adopt the draft report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, as orally amended, an to annex it to the report of the Committee to the General Assembly. The full text of the report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar is annexed to the present chapter.

Annex

Caribbean Regional Seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Castries, Saint Lucia, from 25 to 27 May 1999

Rapporteur: Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic)

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I. Introduction

1. On 22 November 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47, on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which read in part as follows:

> "*The General Assembly,*
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Declares* the period 1990–2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;
>
> "2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism."

2. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the plan of action contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1) aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, in which, *inter alia,* it requested the Special Committee to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.[1]

3. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991, calling for coordinated assistance of the specialized agencies to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that,

> "in addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, ... weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

4. In its resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998, the General Assembly approved the report of the Special Committee,[2] which *inter alia* called for the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be organized by the Committee, in 1999.

5. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar (A/AC.109/1999/2), the purpose of the Seminar was to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly their constitutional evolution towards self-determination by the year 2000. The Seminar was also to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and to identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in the programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The topics considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee and the participants in making a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It also sought to secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories and of non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories.

7. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar to be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and setting new objectives for the year 2000 and beyond.

II. Organization of the Seminar

8. The Seminar was held at Castries, Saint Lucia, from 25 to 27 May 1999.

9. The Seminar held six meetings in which States Members of the United Nations, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and experts took part. The list of participants is given in appendix V to the present report.

10. The Seminar was conducted by Peter D. Donigi, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations and Chairman of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: Chile, China, Cuba, India, Iraq, Mali, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia (host country) and Syrian Arab Republic. France and Portugal participated in the Seminar in their capacity as administering Powers.

11. At the 1st meeting, on 25 May 1999, the following members of the Special Committee were appointed officers of the Seminar: Rafael Dausá Céspedes (Cuba), Moctar Ouane (Mali) and Vladimir Zaemsky (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairmen, Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) as Rapporteur and Chairman of the Drafting Group. The Drafting Group was composed of the representatives of Chile, Iraq and the Russian Federation.

12. The agenda of the Seminar was as follows:

1. Political issues:

(a) Enhancing the attainment of the right to self-determination by the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) Options of self-determination available to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960, respectively:

(i) Independent statehood;

(ii) Free association with an independent State;

(iii) Integration with an independent State;

2. Economic and social issues:

(a) Economic and social development in the small island Territories and their impact on the realization of the right to self-determination;

(b) Constraints faced by and development options available to the small island Territories;

(c) The problems of small, structurally open economies, heavily dependent on imports, a limited number of commodities and highly restricted internal markets;

(d) Food production: development of small-scale agricultural activities and of fisheries;

(e) Development of tourism: its impact on the economic and social sectors and on the environment;

(f) The issue of drug trafficking and money-laundering;

(g) Development of financial management expertise and of skills necessary to negotiate and manage foreign investments; gaining access to adequate information systems;

(h) Development of industries and of indigenous technological capacities, and manufacturing for export;

(i) Human resource development and the consequences of immigration and emigration;

(j) Implications for the island Territories of issues pertaining to the environment and to development, such as global warming, rise in sea level, sustainable development and Agenda 21;

(k) International and regional cooperation to mitigate the effects of natural disasters: provision of assistance and coordination of relief preparedness and prevention;

(l) Role of the specialized agencies, international organizations and regional organizations in the economic and social development of the Territories;

(m) Access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system, with a view to identifying areas in which technical and other assistance could be provided;

(n) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening both by the Territories concerned and by international agencies: preservation and protection of marine resources from over-exploitation; sea and air transport; disaster preparedness and relief; higher education; research and development; and regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise;

(o) Questions relating to the law of the sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) Impact of international conferences (namely, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, 1995, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995) on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

III. Conduct of the Seminar

A. Proceedings of the Seminar

13. Mr. Donigi (Papua New Guinea) opened the Seminar at 9 a.m. on 25 May in his capacity as Chairman of the Seminar. He introduced George W. Odlum, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Saint Lucia.

14. Mr. Odlum delivered his address, which is reproduced *in extenso* in appendix I to the present report.

15. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee made an opening statement in the course of which he also referred to the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories established by General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972. The Chairman's statement is reproduced in appendix II to the present report.

16. At the same meeting, the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Development Programme in Barbados read a message from the Secretary-General, which is reproduced in appendix III to the present report.

17. In view of the fact that the Seminar was taking place during the Week of Solidarity with Peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, some speakers made references to the Week of Solidarity.

18. At the 6th meeting, on 27 May, the Seminar heard a statement by Julian Robert Hunte, Permanent Representative of St. Lucia to the United Nations. The statement is reproduced in full in appendix IV to the present report.

19. At the same meeting the Chairman made the concluding statement.

20. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Saint Lucia (see appendix VI).

B. Consideration of questions and issues

21. As recommended by the Special Committee, and in implementation of the agenda of the of the Seminar, the Seminar participants focused on the following four groups of questions:

(a) The domestic laws of any administering Power relating to what is meant by "self-government" may differ, from a constitutional standpoint, from one administering Power to another. Its interpretation may be related to the type of administrative, legislative and judicial powers that are delegated or devolved onto the administrative, legislative and judicial authorities of the Territory concerned. The following questions are therefore posed:

(i) What is the meaning of "non-self-governing" under the law in force for the time being of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

(ii) What is the meaning of "non-self-governing" under the law in force for the time being of the United States of America?

(iii) What is the meaning of "non-self-governing" under the law in force for the time being of France?

(iv) What is the meaning of "non-self-governing" under the law in force for the time being of New Zealand?

(b) Article 73 (a) of the Charter calls for the administering Powers to develop the political, economic, social and educational advancement, to justly treat the peoples of those territories, and to protect them against abuses. The following questions are therefore posed:

(i) What are the social, educational, economic and political indicators to be applied generally to all Non-Self-Governing Territories which will justify a reclassification of that Territory to one that is capable of being granted a self-governing status?

(ii) Having attained a level of social, economic, and political development so as to justify a territory's reclassification from one of non-self-governing to self-governing status, what then is the status of the mandate of the Special Committee of 24?

(iii) Discuss the role of the United Nations specialized agencies in assisting the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the attainment of their economic, social and educational advancement?

(c) Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations created a relationship of trust between the United Nations and the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this respect, it refers specifically to their right to self-government, taking into account the political aspirations of the peoples of those Territories. The trust created in this Article may be slightly different from the trust created under Chapter XII of the Charter, which created the trusteeship system for those Territories which were taken over after the two world wars. The following questions are therefore posed:

(i) Discuss the trust relationship between the United Nations and the Territories under Article 73 and those under Chapter XII of the Charter;

(ii) Discuss the applicability of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 November 1960 and resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 to Trust Territories on the one hand and the Non- Self-Governing Territories on the other;

(iii) Do the aforementioned General Assembly resolutions of 1960 and 1961 extend the mandate of the Special Committee of 24 or do they have the effect of adding new and additional mandates to the Special Committee of 24?

(d) The countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1996 resolved to adopt measures to fight corruption, money laundering, drug trafficking and terrorist activities. Also in 1996, the General Assembly called on all States to adopt measures to prevent and counteract the financing of terrorist and terrorist organizations. There are many other international instruments dealing with the use of banks to launder funds acquired from illegal sources or to transmit funds to finance the commission of unlawful acts. Many believed that the secrecy provisions attached to offshore banking in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories facilitate the continuation of illegal activities on a worldwide scale. Accordingly, some administering Powers are keen to introduce measures for the purposes of bringing about greater accountability and transparency in offshore banking to assist in the enforcement of laws pertaining to money laundering and other illegal acts of violence and trafficking of illegal drugs. The following questions are therefore posed:

(i) What is the nature of any measures, both legislative and administrative, currently being considered by the OECD countries, the European Union and the United Kingdom in particular, to promote greater accountability and transparency in offshore banking?

(ii) What will be the effects of such measures, both legislative and administrative, on the economy of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are dependent on earnings from offshore banking facilities conducted from within their territory?

(iii) Can the Territories concerned cooperate with the international community and still maintain their market edge in the provision of banking facilities?

(iv) What, if any, action consistent with the desire for accountability and transparency should be taken to protect and promote the nature of the benefits currently enjoyed by these Territories?

C. Summary of statements and discussions

22. The participants addressed the above questions and issues in their statements and during the question and answer period, as per the programme of work adopted by the Seminar. A brief summary of their statements is provided below.

Member States

23. The representative of *Italy* stated that, since 1960, more than 50 countries, whose people were formally under colonial rule, had become independent and had joined the United Nations, bringing with them a wind of democracy and transparency. He said that he strongly felt that the small island States and Territories needed and deserved the largest support of the international community to sustain their economies and trading capability and to protect them from the negative impacts of globalization. The international community had to bear in mind that, even though climate change and environmental fragility were two important aspects of the vulnerabilities of small island States, it was the economy and trade that had a major impact on the lives of the population and the development of the whole country, especially following the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

24. The representative of *Argentina* stated that the question of the Malvinas Islands affected the territorial integrity of his country. The General Assembly and the Special Committee recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the territory and requested both Governments to conduct negotiations in order to find a solution to the question, taking into account the interests of the inhabitants of the islands. He also said that the United Nations ruled out the applicability of the principle of self-determination and that the principle of territorial integrity must prevail in that particular colonial case. In his view, the current population of the islands was made up of British citizens who could not be arbitrators in a territorial dispute to which their country was a party. Argentina had repeatedly expressed its disposition to resume negotiations to find a peaceful and long-lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute and had offered guarantees and safeguards aimed at preserving the characteristics and way of life of the islanders. Currently, the Government of Argentina was most willing to discuss all schemes that might lead to a final solution and bring that colonial case to an end.

25. The representative of *Portugal* stated that the signing on 5 May 1999 of an overall agreement on the problem of

East Timor, entrusting the Secretary-General to organize and conduct a popular consultation through which the East Timorese would decide to accept or reject a proposal for special autonomy, had established an appropriate framework for the exercise by the people of East Timor of their inalienable right to self-determination. However, she said, that framework required that a secure environment devoid of violence or other forms of intimidation was established prior to the consultation. Responsibility to ensure such an environment rested with the appropriate Indonesian security authorities. She emphasized that it was also crucial that the Peace and Stability Commission established in Dili on 21 April became operational without delay in order to complete the tasks it had been mandated by the New York agreements, including, in cooperation with the United Nations, the elaboration of a code of conduct and ensuring the laying down of arms. The deployment of a visible United Nations presence would also contribute to the building of confidence in the process. Only through the combination of those elements would it be possible to create an appropriate environment for a fair and free consultation. She concluded that Portugal would accept whatever option was decided by the East Timorese following such a consultation, and would assist in its implementation.

26. The representative of the *Libyan Arab Jamahiriya* expressed his country's appreciation at the work undertaken by the Special Committee. Furthermore, he reconfirmed the position of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in supporting the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories which were still suffering from the yoke of colonialism and were prevented from exercising their right to self-determination.

27. The representative of *Cuba* stated that the achievements of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, taken as a whole, were among the most remarkable accomplishments of the Organization. There were still 17 Territories in the mandate of the Special Committee and the Committee's role was to ensure that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories could exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. He emphasized the dissemination of information in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the international communities remained very important. To that end, the seminars and visiting missions constituted important instruments in the work of the Special Committee. He further stated that the work of the Special Committee would not be easy and that there would be many obstacles. He ratified the decision of Cuba to continue to work in favour of the total elimination of colonialism in all its manifestations.

Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

28. In his statement, the representative of *East Timor* said that the issue of East Timor had acquired a new dynamism and was currently proceeding towards a solution. The Timorese were conscious of the great difficulties ahead as they travelled the arduous road towards 8 August 1999. He praised the Secretary-General for his experience, integrity and courageous leadership, which had brought about an extraordinary development for East Timor. He also expressed appreciation to the Government and State of Indonesia for the commitment it had undertaken to guarantee the implementation of a democratic, transparent and fair consultation, a reflection, he hoped, of the current undertaking in Indonesia to ensure the same in their own general elections. He expressed the gratitude of the Timorese people to the Government of Portugal for its attentive and skilful handling of the question of East Timor. He also stated that he was aware that the process leading to the consultation would be a difficult one, as many problems had to be resolved before 8 August 1999. He reiterated that the ballot must be held in an atmosphere of transparency, stability and peace. In conclusion, he said that it was of the utmost importance that the Special Committee closely follow the developments over the two months leading to the ballot. The East Timorese people continued to rely on the United Nations in the determination of their future.

29. The representative of *Guam* stated that the delisting of Non-Self-Governing Territories was an unfinished business of the United Nations. The attainment of a sovereign, full self-governing status was no closer in Guam today than it had been 50 years before. He stated that the United States, Guam's administering Power, had yet to recognize and agree to a process that would lead to the decolonization of Guam, notwithstanding the request of the people of Guam for such a process in plebiscite, and the repeated decisions of its legislature and its chief executive. He said that the administering Power continued to view Guam's status as an internal matter, subject to its constitutional framework. He emphasized that immigration to Guam continued to negatively affect the Chamorro people of Guam and a new problem of illegal immigrants had further aggravated the situation. The administering Power continued to hold vast tracts of land and placed onerous conditions on any process for the return of those lands. He encouraged the Special Committee to refocus its work and adopt new measures to secure the cooperation of the administering Power. In his view, an active intercession by the Special Committee was needed to assure inclusion and

participation by the people of Guam in United Nations activities and programmes.

30. The representative of *Montserrat* stated that, since July 1995, the British colony had been experiencing an ongoing destructive volcanic eruption. That eruption was active to date, had made two-thirds of the island's 39.5 square miles of land inaccessible, destroyed over 80 per cent of the island's housing stock; and forced two thirds of the island's population to be evacuated to neighbouring islands in the Caribbean and to the United States and the United Kingdom. He said that the crisis had gravely and negatively impacted on the colony's social, political and economic stability and its developmental prospects for a long foreseeable future. Indeed, in his view, the severe natural disaster had deepened Montserrat's socio-economic and political dependency. Despite that reality, Montserrat was committed to decolonization, self-determination and a process of preparation for independence. The Special Committee was required to be involved in that process.

31. The representative of *New Caledonia* noted that the year 1998 had been a turning point in the political history of New Caledonia. The Nouméa Accord was signed on 5 May 1998 and was ratified by referendum on 8 November 1998. In July 1998, the French Constitution of 1958 was revised to incorporate key elements of that agreement. She said that the Nouméa Accord had received strong support from New Caledonians and the referendum of 8 November last year had been ratified by about 72 per cent of voters. She also pointed out that the result was even more satisfying as the total number of voters participating rose to 74 per cent of registered voters. She noted that certain fundamental provisions of the Nouméa Accord were already being placed in doubt today, in particular, those related to the principle that set restrictions on the electorate body which would vote in elections for the country's political institutions. The Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS) had called on France to respect the provisions of that Accord in order to enable the Pacific Territory of New Caledonia and its original inhabitants, the Kanak people to realize their desire for decolonization and emancipation. In her view, great vigilance was necessary. In that spirit, she suggested that the United Nations be given the capacity to follow the evolution of New Caledonia at the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Furthermore, she suggested that the Special Committee send a mission to New Caledonia in 1999, following the establishment of the new Government on Friday, 28 May 1999.

United Nations Development Programme

32. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme stated that the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, had reached agreement on a plan of action that recognized the vulnerability of small States. That applied equally to independent countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories, regardless of constitutional status. He pointed out that vulnerability arose from size, fragile economies, limited natural resource base, environmental hazards, disaster proneness and capacity deficits in human resources. Steadily declining official development assistance and the graduated status of many of those island States and Non-Self-Governing Territories precluded access to grant financing. Governments were encouraged to establish development assistance frameworks within which external partners, including the United Nations system and administering Powers, would provide coordinated support to national priorities determined by the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Regional organizations (such as the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Development Bank) were uniquely placed to provide options analysis on issues of governance and economic management for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, including working along with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Bretton Woods institutions towards developing a vulnerability index. He concluded that resource mobilization efforts should be increased to offset further decline in funds for development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Non-governmental organizations

33. All representatives of non-governmental organizations reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations decolonization programmes and stated that, in the process of decolonization, there was no alternative to the principle of self-determination. They emphasized that the process of decolonization was not over, but that it had entered its final stage and that the Special Committee should continue to implement new and innovative approaches to the discharge of its mandate. Furthermore, they emphasized the need for the Special Committee to continue its work until the total eradication of colonialism had been achieved.

34. In discussing the question of the meaning of "'non-self-governing' under the laws of each administering Power and as applied in their respective territories", a representative of a non-governmental organization said that the concepts of Non-Self-Governing Territories and of a Territory which had attained a full measure of self-

government were grounded and developed in international law and could not be limited or modified by the domestic law of any State, including the domestic law of the administering Power. In its view, objective education on the right of self-determination was urgently needed by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and regional and non-governmental organizations were well suited to be of effective assistance in that regard.

35. A representative of a non-governmental organization from Puerto Rico raised the issue of United States military manoeuvres and live bombing on the inhabited island of Vieques of Puerto Rico and demanded termination of all military activities in Puerto Rico. Furthermore, the non-governmental organization urged the Government of the United States to release all political prisoners.

36. A representative of a non-governmental organization from Guam raised concerns as to immigration and its displacement of native Chamorros. The representative further discussed the issue of land and the urgent need for the administering Power to return lands expeditiously to the Chamorro people of Guam, and that current processes for return were hindered by onerous restrictions being established by the administering Power.

Experts

37. The experts presented papers dealing with questions and issues proposed by the Special Committee, as reflected in section B above. The experts discussed in detail the political, economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with particular emphasis on the conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories. The experts maintained that:

(a) Any delisting of a Non-Self-Governing Territory for reasons other than that territory having achieved decolonization through independence should both meet a set of criteria adopted by the United Nations and should be a consequence of direct information obtained by the Special Committee through a site visit. At the core of this criteria should be a set of principles that embraced: (i) an understanding by the affected peoples of the decolonization process and the constitutional options; (ii) an economic and fiscal framework for the territory in which control over these areas is ultimately in local hands; and (iii) the existence of full political rights for the people within the territories and a clear decision by the people for an explicit constitutional option and not simply the rejection of another;

(b) All the long-standing resolutions used in the process of self-determination for former Non-Self-Governing Territories remained applicable to the small island territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific;

(c) The recommendations of the representatives of Territories articulated in the various regional seminars between 1990 and 1999 represented a comprehensive programme of action for the successful completion of the process of self-determination for the remaining Territories; this had to be implemented in a plan of action for a second decade, focusing on modalities for the self-determination of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(d) The continued mandate of the Special Committee on decolonization was unquestionable and there was no link between the end of the Decade and the continued existence of the Committee;

(e) Necessary budgetary resources should be provided to carry out a new plan of action for a new decade which would focus on activities in furtherance of self-determination of small island Territories;

(f) There was a need for the inclusion of Territories as observers in various United Nations bodies;

(g) The role of the Special Committee and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system should ensure that the Territories are not merely reclassified as self-governing but must further ensure that they are provided with the necessary information and support to allow them to exercise their right to determine their own political status.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

38. At its sixth meeting, held on 27 May 1999, the Seminar considered its report and the draft conclusions and recommendations contained therein. The Seminar concluded that:

(a) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is not yet complete as long as there remain Non-Self-Governing Territories that still have to exercise their right to self-determination;

(b) In the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right. All available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles, contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and as

enunciated in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

(c) The United Nations has a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization. The mandate of the Special Committee is a major political programme of the United Nations;

(d) In the current stage of global developments, there is still a need for identifying and implementing innovative practical and pragmatic approaches in the search for a specific solution to each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the populations concerned and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(e) Specific characteristics of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should in no way prevent their populations from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

(f) The participants supported closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in furtherance of the provision of assistance in the economic and political sphere from the United Nations to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(g) The participants, having been briefed on the proposed measures to be undertaken by the OECD member States in respect to offshore banking, emphasized the need for effective and constructive consultations between the administering Powers, OECD member States and the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the formulation of appropriate laws. Furthermore, the participants confirmed the need to ensure that the economic rights of Non-Self-Governing Territories as recognized by international law are not compromised by the administering Powers. The participants nevertheless accepted the prerequisite for transparency, accountability and good governance;

(h) The views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect to their right to self-determination should be ascertained under the supervision of the United Nations;

(i) Continued examination of the spectrum of options of self-determination by all parties concerned and dissemination of relevant information among the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are important elements in achieving the goals of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Plan of Action;

(j) Subject to approval by the Economic and Social Council, access by Non-Self-Governing Territories to relevant United Nations programmes in the economic and social sphere, including those emanating from the plans of action of United Nations world conferences, is in furtherance of capacity-building and consistent with necessary preparations for the attainment of full internal self-government;

(k) The Special Committee should adopt the report of the Seminar and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and they should be sent to the General Assembly for consideration;

(l) A consolidated report on the implementation of decolonization resolutions since the declaration of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should be prepared by the Secretary-General for transmission to the General Assembly;

(m) The participants recognize the vulnerability of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, which require special consideration and remedies;

(n) While the international community must remain flexible in its approach to assisting the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their constitutional advancement, efforts should be made to guarantee their advancement in conformity with the acceptable choices contained in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV);

(o) All efforts should be made by Member States, when presenting draft resolutions on decolonization to the General Assembly, to continue to consider the views of the people of the Territories concerned;

(p) The participants acknowledged the efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain the objectives of the mandate of the Special Committee;

(q) The participants support the initiation, at the regional level, of a United Nations study, conducted within available resources, on the access of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system in furtherance of the decolonization process;

(r) The participants emphasized the desirability to hold future seminars in the Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to educating the respective peoples in these Territories regarding the aims and objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Furthermore, they emphasized that such seminars would reflect in more precise ways the feelings and aspirations of the peoples of these Territories. The administering Powers are called upon to facilitate the holding of future seminars in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(s) The participants reconfirmed the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories with the aim of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status;

(t) The participants expressed the view that, as long as there are Non-Self-Governing Territories, the inalienable rights of the peoples of these Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and its Special Committee;

(u) The Seminar requested that the Special Committee organize various activities, within available resources, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and during the last year of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

(v) Taking into account the fortieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the last year of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Secretariat of the United Nations and, in particular, the Department of Public Information should, within available resources, intensify the dissemination of information on the activities of the United Nations in decolonization, by all available means, including the Internet, with a view to raising the awareness of the people about their political rights and options available to them in determining their political status;

(w) The participants recommended that, before the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee formulate an updated plan of action for the eradication of colonialism, focusing on the self-determination of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and with the continued use of the regional seminars as a means of hearing the views of the peoples concerned;

(x) United Nations information centres should be directed to disseminate information on decolonization to the Territories and to the administering Powers;

(y) The Special Committee should continue to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom, aiming at finding a solution to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and taking into consideration the interests of the population of the Territory, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(z) The Special Committee should continue to encourage the ongoing negotiations between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Spain within the Brussels process, aiming at achieving a solution to the question of Gibraltar in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(aa) The participants have warmly welcomed the signing of agreements on 5 May 1999 in New York, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, on East Timor. In particular, they encouraged all parties to fully implement the agreements with the aim of ensuring a free and fair atmosphere for conducting the popular consultation. Furthermore, they recommended that the Special Committee follow the developments and contribute positively to the process;

(bb) The Seminar recognizes the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia, mainly the signing of the Nouméa Accord on 5 May 1998 between representatives of the political forces of New Caledonia and the Government of France; the United Nations should watch closely and keep under review the process unfolding in New Caledonia, as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord. New Caledonia should be entitled, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord, to become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, according to their regulations (such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization). In the interim, New Caledonia should remain on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(cc) The Seminar took note of the general elections that took place on 9 May 1999, as scheduled by the Nouméa Accord and which led to the formation of a collegial government which is the new executive body of New Caledonia. Furthermore, it noted that that development marked the beginning of the implementation of the irreversible transfer of power to New Caledonia;

(dd) France, as the administering Power, should be called upon to transmit to the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation in New Caledonia;

(ee) The participants recommended that the Special Committee should call upon the United States as administering Power to work with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of

Chamorro Self-Determination with a view to facilitating Guam's decolonization and to keep the Secretary-General informed of progress to that end;

(ff) The Special Committee should request the administering Power for Guam, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the people of the Territory;

(gg) The United Nations should further request the administering Power for Guam to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

(hh) The Seminar noted with satisfaction the positive constitutional developments that had occurred in the Territory of Tokelau. The relationship between Tokelau and its administering Power, New Zealand, had been conducive to the increased level of internal self-government and the enactment of territorial legislation, bringing the people of Tokelau closer to the exercise of the right of self-determination;

(ii) The Special Committee should note with satisfaction the cooperation of France, New Zealand and Portugal in the process of decolonization and welcomed their presence at the seminars and call upon other administering Powers to engage the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in future;

(jj) The Special Committee should express its appreciation to Argentina, Italy and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for their active participation in the Seminar and encourage other Member States to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee;

(kk) The Seminar reiterated the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the previous regional seminars held in Vanuatu (1990) and Barbados (1990), Grenada (1992), Papua New Guinea (1993 and 1996), Trinidad and Tobago (1995), Antigua and Barbuda (1997) and Fiji (1998).

39. At the same meeting, the participants adopted a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Saint Lucia (see appendix VI).

Notes

[1] A/46/634/Rev.1, annex, paras. 4 and 22 (c).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23), chap. II.

Appendix I

Statement of welcome by George W. Odlum, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Saint Lucia

Distinguished brothers and sisters, in the heady days of pan Africanism, when the furious winds of change blew across Africa, our African colleagues insisted that they did not want to be well governed or badly governed. They simply wanted to govern themselves! This sentiment has a depth and a significance which should manifest itself to every participant in this crucially important meeting of minds on the subject of decolonization. What the leaders of Africa were saying was simply that independence was no open sesame to a more civil society or a more developed society. It might well be the opposite but that is not the justification for rejecting imperial links. There is no basic criterion for non-self-governing nations to achieve independence. In some ways independence is a categorical imperative that all nations and all peoples should embrace. Even "specks of dust" (as De Gaulle so disparagingly described his French colonies) have the right to aspire to liberation and freedom. It is in this mindset that I welcome you to Saint Lucia today. This affirmation of an inalienable right to independence must also accept that there will be a fixed process, an internationally agreed procedure for effecting this self-determination.

You are broadly representative of wide groupings: representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, representatives of United Nations Member States, regional experts, delegates from non-governmental organizations, representatives of United Nations specialized agencies, members of the Secretariat, representatives of administering Powers and other distinguished participants. We welcome you all to Saint Lucia at a time when we are currently experiencing the full brunt of super-Power arrogance and inhumanity. There is nothing wrong in having a giant's strength but it is deplorable to use it like a giant. The pas-de-deux which exists at present with the WTO ruling on the banana trade will virtually force Europe to recognize its traditional power nexus with America, and this realignment might have even more serious consequences for small States and non-self-governing countries. The logic which follows from this scenario implies a necessity for these non-self-governing States to consolidate themselves as a cohesive bastion of influence against the monolithic power of this leviathan.

We welcome you to Saint Lucia because this series of seminars alternating between the two regions is an important tool in providing the international community with a first-hand account of the conditions in the remaining Territories. It is also an opportunity to hear from the people themselves of the situation on the ground as they proceed along the path towards self-government consistent with international law and principles. These seminars also provide a unique opportunity for interregional contacts between representatives of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories from the respective regions to share experiences gained in the struggle for internal self-government. We have found over the years that there is, indeed, an "island ethos" shared by the peoples of the island Territories.

We in Saint Lucia strongly support the continued participation of these Territories in regional institutions as a natural function of our ongoing Caribbean integration process, and as a critical component of the economic, social and constitutional development of the Caribbean. Pacific institutions such as the Pacific Community also make similar provisions for membership of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

As in the case of regional institutions, the United Nations has an important statutory role to play in the future development process of these Territories. The successful decolonization of over 80 Territories since the Second World War is evidence of the effectiveness of such a function. Saint Lucia was formally classified as non-self-governing and was a beneficiary of a strong commitment to the self-determination process. In part through efforts of the international community, Saint Lucia, along with many other Caribbean Member States, achieved self-determination through the attainment of full independence in the 1970s and 1980s.

More recent successful United Nations actions led to the independence of Namibia, with the required investment of the necessary resources to ensure that outcome. The determined United Nations role in Western Sahara is illustrative of the present commitment by the international community where substantial human and financial resources are being provided to address an issue of self-determination.

In fact, many countries throughout the Caribbean have benefited and continue to benefit from past and ongoing United Nations initiatives in the political and constitutional development process until the full measure of self-government had been achieved. This goal was accomplished by either the attainment of independence, as in the case of 13 of our CARICOM States, by the choice of free association, as in the case of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, or by full integration, with the example in our region of the French overseas departments of Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guyana.

These political status advancements have been successful, in large measure, because of the adherence to the parameters of self-determination set forth by the General Assembly in its landmark resolution 1541 (XV) of 1960, which defined these three legitimate political options based on the fundamental principle of equality.

Saint Lucia reaffirms the view that the principles clearly set forth in resolution 1541 (XV), along with those in its companion resolution, must continue to be the guiding standards applicable to our small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, similar to the standards used to decolonize former colonies. The principle of political equality should, and must remain, universal. The fact that most of the current Non-Self-Governing Territories are small islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific does not mean that the same principles of political equality should not continue to apply to them. I therefore reiterate the CARICOM position that, while the international community must remain flexible in its approach to assisting these Territories as they progress, we must ensure that their political status options remain in conformity with the legitimate choices of equality identified in resolution 1541 (XV) so as not to legitimize, for expediency, present unequal colonial arrangements which do not provide for a full measure of self-government. It is clear that the present non-self-governing arrangements do not meet the recognized criteria of full self-government, and there is no substantive basis for removal of these Territories from United Nations oversight, as has been suggested by some developed countries which administer Territories. Thus, there is a clear need for approval by the General Assembly of a second international decade on the self-determination of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, since the first will have ended without a true resolution of the issues.

On the eve of the new millennium, as the decade comes to a close, there is need for a comprehensive review of the achievements and obstacles of the Decade and the mapping of the way forward. There is need for mechanisms and indicators to measure the progress toward the decolonization of Territories.

In addition there is need for administering Powers to meet their moral obligations to develop and prepare Territories for self-government.

Distinguished participants,

As in the cases of Western Sahara, and more recently in East Timor, the United Nations is expending the necessary resources in an attempt to achieve a successful end to long-standing self-determination processes. It is evident that a successful decolonization process in the Caribbean and the Pacific would also require a sufficient level of resources. It is therefore of the utmost concern that, with less than two years remaining in the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee on decolonization has not had the necessary financial resources or specialized expertise to undertake many of the required activities of the plan of action of the decade. Of particular note are the two main studies called for in that plan, "The review of the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional advancement of the Non Self-Governing Territories" and the "Periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the decolonization declaration in each Territory". It is not difficult to understand why Member States, at this late stage, are still grappling with the intricacies of the specific political status arrangements in the remaining small island Territories, given the fact that these two baseline studies have never been carried out, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the conditions in each Territory have compromised their specificity over the years.

Saint Lucia is of the view that the required studies and analyses would best be undertaken by our own regional experts, several of whom are participating in this seminar. Our own experts are in the best position to comprehend the intricacies and peculiarities of the diverse territorial arrangements, and to work with other experts in articulating the needs and concerns of the people of the respective regions.

Saint Lucia wishes to commend the international community for its diligence in ensuring the successful transition of many former Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, the job is not complete but rather has grown especially complex. In order to resolve the pending decolonization issues in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, the United Nations must devote the same level of resources that have been utilized in the past for the self-determination of our small island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

I ask you to reflect on these few thoughts and proposals as you go about your several days of deliberations to examine comprehensively the many issues of the present-day self-determination process. The Caribbean, like the Pacific, has a wide range of political status models ranging from full independence, self-governing associations, integrated overseas departments and of course the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Our seminar should shed some light on how many of these arrangements actually work, for the benefit of the representatives of the Territories with us.

It is our fervent hope that the recommendations that will be derived from these proceedings will not just be put on the shelf, as too often has happened when dealing with the decolonization process of the small island Territories. We would strongly encourage, rather, that the recommendations of this seminar, and previous seminars, be successfully and fully implemented, since they serve as a comprehensive blueprint for the achievement of true self-determination as articulated by the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves, and it is our duty to see that their wishes are carried out.

May I take this opportunity to re-emphasize the important role which the United Nations has played in providing a forum for new nations to articulate their views and exert their influence on the hegemony of great Powers. The emergence of new nations has effectively brought new life and meaning to international diplomacy. It has also minimized the impact of wealth and power on the concourse of international decisions and positions. In the new millennium, when the spectre of globalization threatens to marginalize small

States, especially small non-self-governing States, it is desperately urgent for such States to consolidate the international trade union of the poor and the underdeveloped. Most of all small Non-Self-Governing Territories should hasten the process of self-determination in order to strengthen the humanization process in the relationship between great and small States.

I wish you well in your deliberations and formally declare open this 1999 Caribbean Regional Seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Appendix II

Statement by the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Peter D. Donigi (Papua New Guinea)

The Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade,

Distinguished ambassadors and representatives of Member States,

Distinguished participants,

Distinguished guests,

I thank Mr. George Odlum, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Saint Lucia, for his warm welcoming remarks and for the gracious hospitality the people and Government of Saint Lucia have extended to the Special Committee and all the participants of the Seminar. I would like to convey the gratitude of the entire Special Committee to the Government of Saint Lucia for hosting this Caribbean Regional Seminar, which is being held within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

This is my first regional seminar since I became Chairman of the Special Committee earlier this year. I am therefore honoured to welcome all of you to what I hope will be a constructive and illuminating discussion of issues which are relevant to the mandate of the Special Committee in respect to the situations prevailing in the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories. In our discussions, we will focus on the constitutional status of the Territories, their political advancement and their social and economic development, and formulate concrete proposals for measures that can be taken to enable the peoples of these Territories to achieve self-government and, where appropriate, exercise their right to self-determination. It is also our hope that what we learn here in the next three days will help the Special Committee in the review of its own work.

Today, we also commemorate the Week of Solidarity with the people of all Non-Self-Governing Territories. As you all know, the observance of this Week of Solidarity marks the continued efforts of the international community to reiterate its support for:

(a) The aspirations of and achievements by these people;

(b) The objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Let us dedicate this Seminar to renewing our efforts to assist the nearly 2 million people in the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, most of them in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, who have yet to achieve the goals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and its many declarations and decisions and other instruments; who, at the near end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, may not have had a full measure of authority to determine their own destiny and power to organize their own form of government to administer to its peoples; who, as one millennium ends and another begins, may face economic and political restraints in a fast-changing global society unless we all endeavour to cooperate in identifying and implementing measures in their best interests and as popularly desired by them, and subject to the general principles of international law, equity, transparency, accountability and good governance.

As most of you know, based on the Plan of Action adopted under General Assembly resolution 46/181 for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee, among other activities, holds a Seminar alternately in the Pacific and the Caribbean regions. The International Decade ends next year, at the end of the year 2000. We have held eight seminars so far during the Decade. Today, we meet in Saint Lucia, at this last seminar to be held in the Caribbean region in this Decade, with some of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts. We are honoured that you could participate, and on behalf of the Special Committee, I thank you for coming.

The substantive dialogue we are to commence today at this Seminar, will greatly help the Special Committee in its review and analysis of the progress made or being made, to enhance the economic, social, constitutional and political advancement of all the peoples in the remaining Territories. This information will be vital to the Committee's work as it seeks the full cooperation of the administering Powers. I believe that this exchange of views will be another building block, as it were, of the framework that will allow us to review critically and make appropriate and constructive recommendations to attain the objectives and mandate of the Committee as contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

I reiterate the challenge ahead. As you know, the administering Powers have not been entirely cooperative with the Committee. The challenge, therefore, is to speed up the implementation of the United Nations resolutions on decolonization, which will result in the delisting of the Territories within the context of Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee has taken the initiative in seeking ways to facilitate constructive and purposeful dialogue with the administering Powers. This Seminar will discuss issues that will help to focus attention on the crucial elements of the mandate of the Committee and help determine the course of action to be undertaken by the Special Committee in future dialogue sessions with the administering Powers. It is my sincere hope, therefore, that the direction the Committee should take should be one of dialogue and not confrontation. It is in that spirit that I especially welcome the representatives of those administering Powers represented here today and urge those who are not represented to review their positions with a view to formally engaging the Committee in constructive dialogue in future.

We are also honoured to have several distinguished experts from Governments, academia, research and non-governmental organizations that have well-established credentials in the field of decolonization, political, legal and civil rights and have agreed to share their views with us. I am confident that the discussions will be stimulating and fruitful and will provide us with some practical recommendations to formulate a framework that will take us forward.

I need not remind you that, though the Special Committee may have been instrumental, over the last 30 years, in the decolonization process that has allowed millions of people to exercise their right to choose their future, it cannot rest on the laurels of past achievements. A more difficult task lies ahead, to help the remaining 2 million people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, whom the world seems to have overlooked in its rush to globalization, as it surges to welcome a new millennium. The people in the Territories must be allowed to exercise the same rights as the rest of the world, the right to determine and manage their own destiny.

This is not a new challenge but a continuing one. On this occasion, we must rededicate our efforts to pursue our objectives with determination, understanding and political will. In particular, we must be sensitive and attuned to the interests of the small island Territories,

which are vulnerable to natural disasters, have fragile ecosystems, are geographically isolated, are constrained in transport and communications and are isolated from major markets. Over the years, the General Assembly has reinforced its views that these characteristics should in no way prevent the peoples of these Non-Self-Governing Territories from exercising their right to self-determination.

In this respect, we must also not close our minds, ears or eyes to the aspirations of these people. We must recognize and act on their aspirations. We will be accused of blatant abuse of authority, lack of transparency and accountability, if we decide to ignore the wishes of the majority of the people. If the people do not want to exercise their right to self-determination but are happy with a form of self-government or autonomy that recognizes the dignity of the individual and the rights of the community, it should not be the role of the Committee to dictate otherwise to them. In those situations, it would seem to me that the reasonable thing to do is for the Committee to establish, in consultation with the administering Powers, the appropriate processes and mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of these aspirations.

It is therefore of great relevance that we are gathered here today, at the start of the Week of Solidarity, to deliberate together and review, with all the participants to this Seminar, the specific circumstances and characteristics which pertain to these island Territories and help establish our priorities to enable them in achieving the goals outlined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Once again, I welcome all of you to the Seminar and look forward to working with you to formulate practical proposals that will help shape our objectives and determine our work programme for the ultimate delisting of all Territories within the Special Committee's mandate.

Appendix III

Message from the Secretary-General addressed to the participants of the Caribbean Regional Seminar at Castries, Saint Lucia, 25–27 May 1999

"It gives me pleasure to convey my greetings to the Special Committee of 24 on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to all who have gathered in Castries, St. Lucia for the Caribbean Regional Seminar of the Special Committee.

"The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in 1960, strongly reaffirmed the right of all peoples to self-determination. The Declaration, along with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments, form the basis of the United Nations role and responsibility in democratization and in upholding the principles of self-determination.

"Though more than 80 million people have attained independence, and their countries have joined the United Nations as sovereign States, the work of the Committee remains unfinished. Some 2 million people in the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories continue to strive to determine their future.

"This Week of Solidarity, which was initiated in support of national liberation movements in Africa, now includes the peoples of all the remaining dependent Territories and provides an opportunity for the international community to reiterate its solidarity with their pursuit of freedom and independence.

"I would like to extend my best wishes to all the participants in this Seminar, including Member States, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and administering Powers, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, experts, academics and observers. You have before you a good opportunity to hear the views and concerns of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to assess the overall state of progress. Finally, the people and Government of Saint Lucia merit our recognition for their generosity in hosting this Seminar."

Appendix IV

Statement by Julian Robert Hunte, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations

Distinguished participants,

We have come to the end of what has been a most stimulating three days of deliberations on the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories. We have had the benefit of hearing a series of excellent, and some even extraordinary, presentations from several of our top regional experts on key elements of the self-determination process, including a thorough legal analysis on the various non-self-governing arrangements and several perspectives on a new administering Power policy affecting a particular set of Caribbean Territories.

We have heard a comprehensive report on the evolution of the United Nations role in decolonization; we have received prescriptions for addressing this critical issue for our small island Territories in a new millennium; and we have listened intently to the extensive dialogue on the impact of unilateral changes on the offshore financial sector of the Territories.

We have been updated on the status of the recovery efforts in Montserrat, whose people have suffered so tragically in the wake of the eruption of the Montsoufrière Volcano, and we have been apprised of recent developments in the Pacific Territory of Guam, where the indigenous Chamorro people are intent on initiating a decolonization process through a legitimate act of self-determination.

We have heard from the representatives of East Timor and Portugal on the possibilities and challenges of bringing the situation in that Territory to a successful resolution. We have also empathized with the frustrations of the people of all the Territories who require more information in order to make meaningful decisions.

Statements from representatives of the Territories have all served to enrich our knowledge on the challenges of contemporary decolonization, and to advise us on the best approaches to be taken by the international community in ensuring that the self-determination process proves successful.

The interaction between and among us, both during the session and in the corridors, has served to enhance our knowledge of the conditions in specific Territories, and the challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean as well as in the Pacific.

The establishment of these regional seminars, conducted by the Special Committee during this International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, was originally designed to assess the situation from a regional perspective, by hearing the widest possible range of views on the various political alternatives available. We in the Caribbean, and our colleagues in the Pacific as well, are of the view that this regional approach, contemplated in the 1991 Plan of Action for the Decade, remains the best way of assessing the unique self-determination needs of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

I believe that the level and depth of the discussions over these last several days serve to confirm the efficacy of the regional seminar as a critical tool in the dissemination of information for the benefit of not only the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, but also for representatives of United Nations Member States as well.

There are those who have argued that the regional seminars are convened in exotic locales such as Saint Lucia, or Fiji, such as Antigua and Barbuda, or Papua New Guinea. We appreciate the compliment that we are exotic locations; we work hard to maintain that reputation, which is critical to the continued sustainable growth of the tourism sector, especially when this thing called globalization threatens our agricultural sector through questionable World Trade Organization rulings. But where else can regional seminars on decolonization be held, except, in the specific regions of which the Non-Self-Governing Territories are integral parts.

Distinguished participants,

In the Caribbean, viewing decolonization from a regional perspective is especially relevant since this approach serves to reinforce the recognition of the many ties which exist between and among the people of the Caribbean, a Caribbean comprised of independent States, overseas departments and associated countries, as well as the Non-Self-Governing Territories. But these differentiations in political status do not dismiss the objective reality that we all share a common heritage and culture, and have struggled together in a common effort to achieve physical emancipation from the inhumane system of slavery, only a century and a half ago.

All of our island countries have gone through the same decolonization process which our brothers and sisters in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are undergoing today. Any political or constitutional differences are far outweighed by the ties which bind us together as a Caribbean people. My own country of Saint Lucia, and our Eastern Caribbean sister State of Dominica, share special cultural, economic and social ties with the overseas departments of Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana, which represents the political model of integrated status and whose representatives have been present with us here at this Seminar to discuss the intricacies of that political status. Because of our geographical proximity and cultural affinity and even our shared indigenous language, known as Creole, the unity between and among the people of this part of the Windward Islands, irrespective of any political status distinctions, is undeniable. On the economic side, the same currency which you have been using over the last several days, our Eastern Caribbean dollar, is shared by not only the independent States of the Eastern Caribbean, but by the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Montserrat and Anguilla, as well. In short, we regard the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories as integral to our ongoing Caribbean integration movement, and to illustrate this fact, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which met earlier this month in St. Kitts and Nevis, held extensive consultations on contemporary decolonization in our region, reaffirming the self-determination process as very much a Caribbean issue.

As the end of the Decade draws near, it should be re-emphasized that the decolonization era has not ended, but has rather entered a more complex phase that embraces the nuances of the development process of small island Territories which have no less a right to full self-determination than other countries that have successfully emerged from an internationally recognized decolonization process through the attainment of the legitimate political status options of independence, free association or integration.

It is clear that the plan of action for the achievement of this self-determination will not be fully implemented by the end of the year 2000, and it is therefore highly important that the process be reinvigorated in the new millennium if the international community is to fulfil its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to oversee the self-determination process, as has been done for over 80 Territories since the Second World War.

The continued and enhanced role of countries of the Caribbean and the Pacific is critical to the future development of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories whose economic, political and social advancement cannot be successfully addressed separately from the respective regions of which they are an integral part.

If the spectre of "colonies in perpetuity" is to be avoided, and the incomplete and unequal constitutional arrangements to be corrected, United Nations Member States, beginning with our own Group of 77, must redouble their efforts to ensure an orderly, relevant and coherent process of self-determination. To achieve this, we endorse the view that a second decade on the self-determination of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories should be approved by the General Assembly with the necessary resources to carry out an updated and realistic plan of action to address the unfinished business of decolonization.

Distinguished participants,

On behalf of the Government and people of Saint Lucia, I wish to congratulate you on this most successful seminar, where perspectives were shared and recommendations were made by the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories who have not yet achieved a full measure of self-government. As we take the report of this meeting to the Special Committee, it will be our responsibility to ensure that the recommendations of the people themselves are implemented, and that we usher in a new era of serious and sustained focus on meeting the challenges of contemporary decolonization of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Appendix V

List of participants

Official delegation of the Special Committee of 24

Papua New Guinea	Mr. Peter D. Donigi Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations and Chairman of the Special Committee
Chile	Mr. Juan Eduardo Eguiguren Member of the Special Committee
Cuba	Mr. Rafael Dausá Céspedes Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee
Iraq	Mr. Mowafak Ayoub Member of the Special Committee
Mali	Mr. Moctar Ouane Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee
Russian Federation	Mr. Vladimir Zaemsky Member of the Special Committee
Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Fayssal Mekdad Rapporteur of the Special Committee

States Members of the United Nations

Argentina	Mr. Mateo Estreme
China*	Mr. Gu Pine Mr. Jian Xinya
India*	Mr. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
Italy	Mr. Gian Lorenzo Cornado
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Ahmed Ali Jarroud
Saint Lucia* (host country)	Mr. Julian Robert Hunte Ms. Michelle Joseph

Administering Powers

France	M. Alain Gouhier
Portugal	Ms. Carla Grijó

* Member of the Special Committee.

Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories

East Timor	Mr. Zacarias Da Costa
Guam	Mr. Ronald F. Rivera
Montserrat	Mr. Brunel B. Meade
New Caledonia	Ms. Matcha Iboudghacem Mr. Maurice Pindard
United States Virgin Islands	Mr. Carlyle Corbin

Experts

Mr. C. Walton Brown (Bermuda)

Mr. Carlyle Corbin (United States Virgin Islands)

Ms. Phyllis Fleming-Banks (Anguilla)

Mr. Casey S. Gill, Esq. (Cayman Islands)

Ms. Ermin Penn (British Virgin Islands)

Non-governmental organizations

African American Human Rights Foundation	Mr. Thomas Porter
Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)	Mr. Fermin L. Arraiza Navas Mr. José J. Nazario de la Rosa
Guam Landowners Association (Guam)	Mr. Ronald Teehan
Saint Lucia National Youth Council (Saint Lucia)	Mr. John Victorin
United Nations Association of Virgin Islands (United States Virgin Islands)	Ms. Judith Bourne
Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) (Netherlands)	Mr. Menelaos Tzelios

Regional organizations

Caribbean Development Bank	Ms. Juliet Melville

Intergovernmental organizations

Caribbean Community	Ms. Phillipa Lawrence

Observer

Mr. Alejandro Betts

United Nations programmes and specialized agencies

United Nations Development Programme	Mr. Trevor Gordon-Somers
	Ms. Nancy Springer

Appendix VI

Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Saint Lucia

The participants in the Caribbean Regional Seminar,

Having met from 25 to 27 May 1999 at Castries for the purpose of assessing the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, in particular, the review of the pressing questions relating to the work programme of the Special Committee for the year 2000 and beyond,

Having heard the important statement by His Excellency the Honourable George W. Odlum, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Saint Lucia,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Saint Lucia for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants and observers throughout their stay in Saint Lucia.